

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend the claims to read as follows:

1. (currently amended) A system providing cardiac stimulation in combination with an endoscopic imaging probe, comprising:
  - a disposable, removable sheath of a flexible membrane material sized to slidably cover the distal transesophageal portion of an endoscopic imaging probe and permit transesophageal ultrasonic imaging by the endoscopic imaging probe within the sheath;
  - a cardiac stimulation electrical conductor integrated in the sheath; and
  - an electrical cable, attached to the cardiac stimulation electrical conductor and extending from the sheath, and adapted to be connected to an external defibrillator.
2. (previously presented) The system as recited in claim 1, further comprising
  - a connector receiving the cable and adapted to connect the cable to the external defibrillator; and
  - a transthoracic pad connected to the external defibrillator for the cardiac stimulation.
3. (previously presented) The system as recited in claim 1, further comprising a second cardiac stimulation electrical conductor located on the sheath,

wherein an electrical path for cardiac stimulation is provided between the first and second conductors.

4. (canceled)

5. (previously presented) The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the endoscopic imaging probe further comprises a probe insertable through a mouth into an esophagus of a patient, wherein the probe is covered by the sheath, and wherein the sheath comprises an insulation type coating comprising suitable dielectric strength inside a cavity of the sheath to protect the probe from damage by energy applied during the cardiac stimulation.

6. (previously presented) The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the endoscopic probe is designed for insertion into the esophagus of a subject; and wherein the sheath further comprises an inflatable balloon positioned behind the conductor and closing a gap between the esophagus and the sheath when inflated and pushing the conductor against a wall of the esophagus.

7. - 8. (canceled)

9. (previously presented) The system as recited in claim 3, wherein at least one of the first and second conductors comprises a plurality of electrically connected conductors.

10. (previously presented) The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the conductor is acoustically transparent.

11. (canceled)

12. (previously presented) The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the cardiac stimulation comprises cardioversion, defibrillation or pacing in atria of a subject.

13. (previously presented) The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the cardiac stimulation comprises cardioversion, defibrillation, or pacing in ventricles of a subject.

14. (previously presented) The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the cardiac stimulation comprises cardioversion, defibrillation, or pacing of any of a plurality of pacemaker sites within a heart of a subject.

15. (canceled)

16. (previously presented) The system as recited in claim 2, wherein the transthoracic pad is positioned over a thorax of a subject.

17. - 25. (canceled)